AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a first audio input/output (I/O) connector provided for coupling to a first audio I/O device;

a second audio I/O connector provided for coupling to a second audio I/O device;

the first and second connectors being coupled to an audio controller by a circuit; and

means for reducing noise coupled onto the first audio I/O connector and limiting such noise from interfacing with a signal from the second audio I/O connector, the means for reducing noise including a field effect transistor coupled to the first and second connectors and to ground, the transistor connected to pull the first ~~device coupled to the first I/O~~ connector to a zero voltage level when ~~the second device is coupled to~~ triggered by a mechanical switch integrated into the second ~~I/O~~ connector.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a PCI bus connecting a PCI card slot to a card/bus controller, the audio controller connected to the PCI bus, and an I/O controller hub connected to the PCI bus.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 2, further comprising a super I/O controller connected to the I/O controller hub.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first audio I/O connector comprises a jack.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the second audio I/O connector comprises a jack.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor;

an audio controller coupled to the processor;

a first audio I/O connector coupled to the audio controller and provided for coupling to a first audio I/O device;

a second audio I/O connector coupled to the audio controller and provided for coupling to a second audio I/O device; and

a field effect transistor coupled to the first and second connectors and to ground, the transistor connected to pull the first ~~device coupled to the first I/O~~ connector to a zero voltage level when ~~the second device is coupled to~~ triggered by a mechanical switch integrated into the second ~~I/O~~ connector, the transistor functioning as a means for reducing noise coupled onto the first audio I/O connector and limiting such noise from interfacing with a signal from the second audio I/O connector.

9. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 8, further comprising a PCI bus connected to a PCI card slot and to a card/bus controller, the audio controller connected to the PCI bus, and an I/O controller hub connected to the PCI bus.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 9, further comprising a super I/O controller connected to the I/O controller hub.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 8, wherein the first audio I/O connector is a jack.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 13, wherein the second audio I/O connector comprises a jack.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 10, wherein the first and second audio I/O connectors each comprise a jack.

16. (Cancelled).